



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

2003-0177

Renovations & Additions to Groton School Facilities - Phase I

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted the initial budget issue for Kolnaski School was the windows, and the last number needed to determine the overage was Technology and Special Equipment (TS&E). As previously reported, bids for TS&E for the two new elementary schools were way over the estimate (\$450,000 was budgeted, \$490,000 was estimated prior to the bid, the bids came in at \$711,000, and the final bid number, with overlapping bids factored out was \$630,000). Staff, the consultant, and IT personnel from the schools met last week and determined that the TS&E must be rebid., which means a firm number on the cost overruns will not be available for three or four more weeks. The Town Manager distributed a handout on the budget shortfall for discussion purposes and noted the shortfall is just under \$500,000 if the original TS&E estimate is held.

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted that there are no budget shortfalls at Northeast Academy if the \$490,000 TS&E estimate holds. Mr. Schneider reviewed remaining items at the Kolnaski School and associated costs such as installation of a fire pump, some work associated with the windows, installation of a playscape, some additional furniture and fixed equipment, room reconfiguration, commissioning, move coordination, and the additional TS&E funds to meet the estimate, for a total of \$492,058. If supplemental funds are not received, the Town would purchase only \$195,000 of TS&E and would not purchase the additional furniture, commissioning and move coordination to meet the \$21.6 million budget. Staff will be working to value engineer the TS&E for the next bid and things are still on track for a January opening. The consultant feels that if the TS&E is re-bid soon, installation by the January opening date is still possible.

Streeter asked if any equipment would be moved from the old schools to the new schools, and Mr. Schneider indicated he is waiting for that information to be received from Wes Greenleaf. Town Manager Oefinger noted that equipment will be reused in the school system, but not necessarily in these schools. The plan for the new schools is to go wireless rather than hardwired.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the purpose tonight is to define the order of magnitude of the budget shortfall. He noted that although the number is close to the TS&E number, that is simply by chance, and there are many factors.

Councilor Sheets endorsed Councilor Streeter's concern with the disposition of used equipment. She also suggested not bonding for computer equipment in Phase II. She suggested making a

supplemental appropriation for the TS&E and removing it from the bond. The Town Manager noted that, in effect, that is what would happen.

Councilor Scott asked when a supplemental appropriation would need to be made to meet the time line. Town Manager Oefinger said ideally prior to the RTM meeting next week. Discussion followed on scheduling a special meeting of the Town Council after next week's Committee of the Whole. Councilor Scott expressed support for a supplemental appropriation.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to recommend a resolution appropriating \$492,058 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School.

Discussion followed. Councilor Bartinik noted that the window problem was not the Town's fault, and the \$45,000 overage for TS&E on a \$21.6 million project is not bad. It was noted that the final number could be changed before the resolution is passed if better information becomes available.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0186 Town Manager Annual Evaluation

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Scott, to enter executive session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss 2007-0186 Town Manager Annual Evaluation.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

Councilor Bond arrived during the executive session.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

Recommended for a Resolution

The executive session concluded at 7:38 p.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.